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CHAPTER XXII.

VERLAND RED, sitting on a bowlder beside the road, stoop-ed and gathered up a handful of pebbles. Then, for lack of interest, he invented a game of nt and honorable origin. "She lent and honorable origin. "She
se me," he said, tossing away a
ble. "She loves me not." And up
n another pebble. So he continued
if the pebbles were gone. "She
se me not," he muttered lugubrious.
Then his face brightened. "Of
tree she don't. She loves him. nat's what I was tryin' to get at

He fumbled at a huge bunch of lit-tie red flowers called "humming birds' trumpets." He arranged the hastily constructed bouquet to suit him. Then he laid it on the rock.

"Accordin' to the latest book on good ole manners, or 'How to Be Happy ough Dressed Up,' this here bouquet is the proper thing. They'll think I'm me wiz' when I step out and present use here humanin'birds' bugles. Huhl seen the two hosses gone, and I gets to direct. But I got to brace up. onder what she'll think about me er hearin' what I said last night at Old Meadow? Gee! I wonder t I did say? Did I cuss much? I et. H-m-m! Good mornin', folks!
--this here—them hummin'birds' fowers Happy day-Collie,

ou, of course. Where did you get postes?"
"Picked 'em along the Golden Shore.

net got back."
"You do look scared, Red."
"Seein' you're gettin' personal, you
cedn't to think because you just been

here that I never will."
"Bay, Overland, I—we"— began Col-"I knowed it! I wen't say a word to

ded. Then she gave Overland her hand. He seized it and stood looking into her sweet gray eyes. "Little Rose Girl," he said quietly, "you always was best and kindest and beautifullest ever knowed. It ain't the first e you give your hand to help them that ain't fit to touch it. If there is any Golden Shore I guess me and Col-lie will be there just because we know-ed you down here and couldn't stay round nohow where you wasn't. And, elieve me, if he don't treat you from now on like you was a plumb angel I'll-I'll ride him off the big range and into space quicker 'n shootin' stars! These here flowers is for you-not for that long legged grasshopper ridin' your hoss there. I should think Boyar

"Then Collie can walk," said Louise omptly. "Collie, will you please let Mr. Summers take Boyar? I want to talk with the president of-of my

would be plumb ashamed."

"Don't faint, Chico," said Overland, swinging into the saddle. "I always was the 'cute little gopher with the ladies. You watch us ride up this trail If you want to see a pair that can

Collie shook his fist at the grinning Overland, who had turned as he rode away. "You want to learn to act quick when a lady asks you," called Over land. "You didn't get off this hoss any

Then Collie stooped and picked up a little red flower that had dropped from the bolsterous one's offering.

The Marshalls and Billy Winthrop came in their car. The ride through the canyon had been pleasant. They were talking about Overland. They had been discussing the rearrangement of a great many things since the news of Louise's heritage had become

"You had better close the muffler Billy. You are frightening that pony.' "That's the Yuma colt," said Winthrop. "Overland is riding her."

"Yes. He's coming to meet us." Plunging through the crackling greasewood at the side of the road, the Yuma celt leaped toward the car. In broad sombrero, blue silk neckerchief, blue fannel shirt and silver studded leather chaps, was a strangely familiar figure. The great silver spurs rang

sically as the pony reared. The gure gave easily to the wild plunging of the horse, yet was as firm as from Anne drew a deep breath. It was not the grotesque, frockcoated Over-

land of a recent visit, nor was it the ragged, unkempt vision Louise bad, njured up for her in relating the Old Meadow story. In fact, it was not Overland Red at all, but Jack Summers, the range rider of the old red Abilene days. He was clean shaved, rigorous, splendidly strong and confident. In the saddle, bedecked in his showy trappings, surrounded by his friends, Jack Summers had found his South again, and the past was as a

closed book for the nonce.

"I'm the boss' envy extraordinary," said Overland by way of greeting. Walt said something else, too, about bein' a potentiary, but I reckon that was a joke."

"Good morning! Don't get down! Glad to see you again!" But Overland was in the road, hat in hand and Yuma's bridle reins over one

"Mornin', Billy! Mornin', doctor! You run right up to the house. I left

the gate open." Then Overland rode back, following them. Later he reappeared, minus spurs and chaps, but still clad in the garb of the range rider. He was as proud and happy as a boy. He seemed

to have dropped ten years from his shoulders, and he was strangely un-like his old boisterous self withat. The noon sun crept through the moon vine. Out on the wide weranda was the long table. They were a happy group at luncheon there. Even the taciturn Brand Williams had been persuaded to come. His native picturesqueness was rather effaced by a

Walter Stone at the conclusion of the tuncheon asked Overland to make a speech. Nothing daunted, Overland

black, characteriess suit of "store

nee briskly. "I expect you're lookin' for me to the tomato vat and make a large red splash. Not me. I got somethin' to say. Now, the difference in droppin' a egg on the kitchen floor and breakin' it calmilke in a saucer ain't only the muss on the floor; you save the egg. Just recent I come nigh to losin' my whole basket. You all know who saved 'em. Not namin' any names, the same person, by jest bein' herself and kind to everybody, put me wise to the fact that money and clothes ain't all that goes to make a man. And, at the same time, speakin' kind of orthodoxical, oney and clothes has a whole lot to do with makin' a man. I just got hep to that idea recent.

"Speakin' of clothes leads me to re mark that I got a new outfit up at the bunk house. It's a automobilin' outfit. Billy says it's the correc' thing. He belped me pick it out, which leads Bill to rise again to the surface and remains in the sea depths after death. to break the news gentle and not scare The "fish" is not lost, however. From anybody to death and not get 'em to thinkin' that somebody was hurt or anything like that, so I'm breakin' it to you easy. Me an' Billy is goin' away. We're goin' in the Guzzuh-'God save the mush,' as the pote says. We are the Overland Red Towerist and Observation company, unlimited.

We are goin' "Round the world and back again; Heel and toe in sun and rain" as another pote says. Only we ride. I ain't got nothin' to say about gettin' married or happy days or any of that ordinary kind of stuff. I want to drink the health of my friends. I got so my and such good ones that I daspent to incriminate any particular one, so I say, lookin' at your faces like roses and lilles and-and faces. I say-

"Here's to California, the darling of the

west,

A blessing on those living here—
And God help all the rest."

Overland sat down amid applause. He located his tobacco and papers, rolled a cigarette with one hand and he saw Louise looking at him. He smiled. "I was settin' on a crazy bronc' holdin' his head up so he couldn't go to buckin' outside a little old adobe down in Yuma, Ariz., then. Did you ever drift away like that just from some little old trick to make you At a nod from Aunt Eleanor they all

Louise stepped from her end of the table to where Overland stood gazing out across the fills. She touched him lightly on the arm. He turned and looked at her unseeingly. His eyes were filled with the dreams of his youth, dreams that had not come true

-and yet- He gazed down into her face. His expression changed. His eyes grew misty with happiness. He realized how many friends he had and how loyal and excellent they were. And of all that he had gained his greatest treasure was his love for Louise-for Louise Lacharme, the little Rose Girl of his dreams. That love lay buried deep in his rugged heart. She would never know of it. No one should ever know-not even Collie.

Louise in an ecstasy of affection and pity that she could not understand suddenly flung her arms around Overland's neck and kissed him full on the lips. More than he had ever dared to dream had come true.

THE END.

The Woman In the Case. A mother-in-law had stayed so often with her daughter as to cause a quarrel with the husband. One day she found her daughter

weeping in the drawing droom. "What's the matter? Gracious me. don't say that George has left you!"



"He has," replied the young wife

tearfully. "Then there's a woman in the case?" mater asked, her eyes lighting up expectantly.

"Yes." "Who is it?"

A Distinction. "I hate jam." "Do you mean on bread or in the

trolley cars?"-Baltimore American.

THINGS TO AVOID.

A fool may be known by six things-anger, without cause; speech, without profit; change, without progress; inquiry, without object; putting trust in a stranger and mistaking fees for friends.—Arabian Proverb.

dying whale, "sounding" deeply, fails mains in the sea depths after death. some unexplained cause the gases set free by decomposition inside the carcass find their way to the whale's tongue. This organ becomes inflated, resembling a huge balloon, and by its buoyancy brings the body of the dead whale to the surface, when it is picked up by the crews. The process of inflation and flotation commences within a few hours of death, and the lapse of two or three days will generally sufice to bring the body of a "lost" whale ap from the sea floor.-Exchange.

Hadn't Been There. Lecturer (in a small town)-Of course you all know what the inside of a corpuscle is like. Chairman of Meeting (interrupting)-Most of us do, but ye better explain it for the benefit of them as have never been inside one.-Puck.

Knows by Experience. Rankin-Have you ever stopped to consider how the other half lives? Phyle-I don't have to. "Why not?"

"Because half of the time I live that way myself."-Youngstown Telegram.

Making Time Money. Clerk-I should like a small increase in my salary, sir, please.

Merchant-I don't see my way clear to do that, but I can do the same thing in another way. You are aware, of course, that time is money.

"Well, hereafter you can work until 6 instead of leaving at 5."

"Do you think your husband has de rived any benefit from playing golf, Mrs. Niblick?"

"Oh, yes; I'm sure he has! He used to be frightfully irritable, but now I never hear a cross word from him." "Of course you don't. His vocabulary of expletives must be pretty well used up by the time he gets home from the links."-- Exchange.

Her Wish. "I wish I were dead," said he after

His wife did not join in this melancholy yearn. "I wish you were insured." she did say .- Louisville Courier-Journal.

the quarrel.

BEGINNING.

Be always beginning. Never think that you can relax or that you have attained the end. If we think ourselves more than beginners it is a sign that we have hardly yet begun.

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